

## II. Introduction

The Department of the Interior's (DOI) missions are diverse, far-reaching in scope and dependent on information technology. Above all, the Department's mandate is to:

- encourage and provide for the appropriate management, preservation, and administration of the Nation's public lands and natural resources for use and enjoyment both now and in the future;
- carry out related scientific research and investigations in support of these objectives;
- develop and use resources in an environmentally sound manner;
- provide an equitable return on these resources to the American taxpayer; and
- carry out the trust responsibilities of the U.S. Government with respect to American Indians and Alaska Natives.

To fulfill these responsibilities, the Department is comprised of eight bureaus, which carry out mission and program area activities, the Office of the Secretary which provides program and administrative oversight, and two administrative service centers, which provide consolidated Departmentwide support services such as payroll, financial management, and procurement. The Department and its bureaus consist of 70,000 employees at over 2,000 field locations across the country.

The eight bureaus that comprise the Department of the Interior and their mission statements:

- ***Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):*** to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska natives. We will accomplish this through the delivery of quality services, maintaining government-to-government relationships within the spirit of Indian self-determination.
- ***Bureau of Land Management (BLM):*** to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- ***Minerals Management Service (MMS) :*** to manage the mineral resources of the Outer Continental Shelf in an environmentally sound and safe manner and to timely collect, verify, and distribute mineral revenues from Federal and Indian lands.
- ***Office of Surface Mining (OSM):*** with responsibility, in cooperation with the states and

Indian Tribes, to protect citizens and the environment during coal mining and reclamation, and to reclaim mines abandoned before 1977.

- ***U.S. Geological Survey (USGS):*** provides the Nation with reliable, impartial information to describe and understand the Earth. This information is used to: minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; enhance and protect the quality of life; and contribute to wise economic and physical development.
- ***Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):*** working with others, to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. Our major responsibilities are: migratory birds, endangered species, certain marine mammals, freshwater and anadromous fish, the National Wildlife Refuge System, wetlands, conserving habitat, and environmental contaminants.
- ***National Park Service (NPS):*** to promote and regulate the use of the national parks, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
- ***Bureau of Reclamation (BOR):*** to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.